

Earned Chamber's "Spirit of Enterprise" Award with Highest Pro-Business Score in Arizona Congressional Delegation

TEMPE - The U.S. Chamber of Commerce joined with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce and other local employers today to recognize U.S. Rep. Harry E. Mitchell for his pro-growth, pro-business record over the past year by presenting him "Spirit of Enterprise" Award at a ceremony in his hometown.

"At a time when we are trying to rebuild and reinvigorate our economy, it is a tremendous and humbling honor to be recognized as a friend to business, especially small businesses," Mitchell said. "Small businesses are the backbone of Arizona's economy, and I believe that it is important that they have access to the resources they need. Supporting local and small businesses will not only strengthen our economy, but also create jobs in our community. I will continue to be a strong advocate for their concerns in Washington."

The annual award recognizes members of the U.S. House or Senate who have significantly advanced the interest of local business in the previous year. Mitchell received the Spirit of Enterprise distinction last month in Washington, D.C. Today's event, at Tempe-based marketing company Sitewire, was a chance for local business leaders to also show their appreciation.

This is the twenty-second year that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has formally honored the accomplishments of this select group of members of Congress. Mitchell was one of 19 Democrats among the 230 members recognized by the Chamber. [Source: [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), April 27, 2010]

The U.S. Chamber determines eligibility for the award based on how members vote on key business issues. Mitchell received the highest score of any member of the Arizona Congressional Delegation - both in the U.S. House and Senate, and among Republicans and Democrats.

Members who support the U.S. Chamber's position on at least 70 percent of those votes receive the award. Mitchell maintained an 80 percent rating with the Chamber this year - the highest rating in the Arizona delegation for 2009. [Source: [How They Voted](#), U.S. Chamber of Commerce 2009 Scorecard]

Thomas J. Donohue, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, recognized Mitchell among a select group of members of Congress at the Washington, D.C. awards breakfast last month. [[U.S. Chamber Press Release](#)]

"The Chamber applauds Representative Mitchell for supporting the private sector and job growth through these difficult times," Donohue said. "He has demonstrated great courage and we commend him."

Mitchell has been routinely recognized for his independence and commitment to his Arizona constituents. Earlier this year, he was recognized by *The Wall Street Journal's* editorial board for having a "sensible" position on key tax cuts. [Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#), January 27, 2010]

Additionally, in its 2009 rankings, *National Journal* places Mitchell as the fourth most independent Democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives on economic issues, placing him overall as one of the most independent Members of Congress. [Source: [National Journal](#), February 27, 2010]

In 2009, Mitchell was also named the South West Transit Association's Legislator of the Year, and received the American Legion Department of Arizona's 'Distinguished Legislator of the Year' award. He was also recognized formally by the Mesa City Council for his contributions to and representation on behalf of the City of Mesa.

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